

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through 4-year-olds from 8:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer and Nursery Assistant Cassie Vestal will be happy to help you get your child settled into the nursery.

Worship bags

We provide worship bags that contain a coloring page based on the Gospel reading of the day. They also have a wonderful parent-focused message on the back to help you talk about the day's reading with your child. Worship bags are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

Sermons available

Find past sermons available in hard copy in the narthex of New St. Mary's, or visit stmarysgoochland.org/sermons to hear audio and download print versions.

Connect with us

We would love to learn more about you! If you are a visitor, please pick up a **welcome card** from one of our ushers or in the back of a pew.

Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*
10 a.m. Confirmation Class, *Education Building*
10 a.m. Advent Wreath-Making, *New Parish Hall*
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cake and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
12:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, *Dorey Park*
4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, *Education Building*

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

Like a slow motion prayer wheel, the year spins through the seasons. Winter, spring, summer, fall, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, interspersed with long stretches of what the Church calls "ordinary time." And then it starts all over again, at the beginning: Advent, the Church's New Year.

But Advent doesn't appear in ads, shop displays or Facebook "suggested sites." Instead, we get the anxiety-inducing reminders of the rapidly decreasing number of shopping days left until Christmas.

Stop. Breathe. Listen for a moment. Quietly, persistently, Advent calls us to step away from the frenzy and to pay attention. On the rolling prayer wheel of the liturgical year, Advent readies us for something amazing, exciting, and terrifying: the birth of Jesus at Christmas. And each time – as if for the first time – we will be transformed.

Advent also happens in each of our lives. When fundamental change is imminent – a move, a marriage, a new job, retirement – Advent challenges us to stop, breathe, listen and prepare ourselves to live in the world transformed by that change.

Advent 2017 finds me on the brink of such a transformation. In a few months, after a long stretch of ordinary time, I will brush off long unused skills and start to set my own goals rather than those of an employer. I haven't felt as excited since I can remember. Or as scared.

The choices are rich and varied. I'm sketching out mind-maps, listing places to tour or volunteer, checking out pottery workshops, pinning on Pinterest, and interviewing well-traveled friends. I'm as giddy as a teenager planning her gap year! My emotions match those I imagine Mary must have felt as her time drew near: fear and joy combined in equal measure.

In "The Summer Day," poet Mary Oliver asks:

Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Not "what have you done?" with your life, but "what is it you plan to do?"

And Advent asks us a similar question. "What is it you plan to do in the world about to be transformed by the birth of this Baby?" Not "what have you done?" But "what will you do?"

Can I – can we – stay open to all the possibilities, positive and negative? Can we say, with Mary, "Let it be unto me according to your word?"

Kitty Williams

WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401st, we're glad that you're with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to a greeter, an usher, or one of our clergy, and **consider filling out a welcome card**. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or at 11 a.m. for Eucharist or Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday Prayer** at 12 p.m. in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary's, for a **class** or **Bible study**, or for many of our other **fellowship** and **outreach** offerings. **Little St. Mary's** and **New St. Mary's** are also **open** Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

LESSONS AND CAROLS NEXT SUNDAY

Please join us for a service of **Lessons and Carols next Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m.** Listen to readings and choral music telling the story of the birth of Christ, and **raise your voices** in song **with the St. Mary's Choir and Children's Choir** in traditional carols of Advent and Christmas. It is a wonderful tradition you don't want to miss!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Men's Spiritual Practice continues this **Tuesday, December 5 through December 19 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall. Bob Hetherington **invites men of all ages to participate** in a one-hour time of silence, reflection, sharing, and prayer that focuses on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

In 2015, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu sat down to talk about the nature of joy, **how to find joy in a dark and difficult world**, and, most importantly, how to cultivate joy. This week-long conversation was crafted into *The Book of Joy*. **Join Andrew Moore at 6 p.m. in the Old Parish Hall on Wednesday, December 6 and 13** as we discuss the Pillars of Joy that are laid out in the book and practices we can incorporate into our everyday lives. **Copies of *The Book of Joy* are available** for purchase in the Café or online. **On December 6 we will look at the second three pillars:** Humor, Acceptance, and Forgiveness.

In *The Soul of Christmas*, Thomas Moore delves into the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus and how they **remind us of the infinite possibilities of life** available to all of us. **Join Weezie Blanchard at 10 a.m. in the Library on Thursday, December 7 and 21** as we discuss the ways that Moore **invites us to deepen our appreciation** for what is holy in all of our lives throughout the year. Copies of *The Soul of Christmas* are available for purchase in the Café or online.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children's Lessons and Carols is at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. We are busy getting ready for one of our dearest services of the year. **Volunteers are always needed** to help our littlest members tell the story. Adults who are **interested in assisting with the program, please contact** Anne McCoy at ritterah@gmail.com or Nancy Ritter at nancy.ritter@gmail.com. Also, save the date for a **full rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m.**

While you are here this morning, please be sure to **pick up an Advent in a Box resource material**. This box contains simple **items and meditations for old and young alike**. It is a helpful way to **bring a sense of joyful and expectant waiting home** for yourself and for your family.

High School Youth Group is doing something slightly different today! We'll **leave from St. Mary's Education Building at 12:30 p.m. to play Disc Golf!** We'll play at Dorey Park and be back to the church around 4:00 p.m. Regardless of whether you've played before, this will be an excellent time! For more information please contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Middle School Youth Group is back today from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Education Building. **Gather for food, fun, and fellowship.** Please bring \$5 for pizza! Open to all students, grades 6-8. For more information please contact Matt Rawls at mrawks@stmarysgoochland.org.

OUTREACH

The Giving Tree is in the Dover Lounge! St. Mary's will once again **sponsor four families from the Goochland Christmas Mother** as well as collect Food Lion gift cards to be distributed for Christmas. Grab an ornament or two with the gift needs on them and sign the board. **Please bring the gifts wrapped with the ornament and drop them under the tree by next Sunday, December 10.**

Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Clothes Closet drive is happening! Throughout Advent, St. Mary's is **collecting gently used and clean items for infants, children, teenagers, and adults.** Collection boxes are located in the New Parish Hall. A list of needed items can be found in the Café area. For further information or if you have questions, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

Save the date for the Ecuador Mission Adult Forum! Join the mission team which recently returned from a week in Quito, Ecuador **on Sunday, December 17 at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall.** Come hear about the amazing work the Episcopal Church is doing, the connections made between Emaus Episcopal Church and St. Mary's, and **learn about how to become involved.**

WORSHIP

Each Wednesday in Advent, we invite you to attend a **special time of contemplative meditation** and prayer beginning **20 minutes before Noonday Prayer at 12 p.m.** and Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m.

Advent is a **special season of joyfully awaiting what's coming**, you will notice different hymns and prayers in our Sunday services, and we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at both services throughout Advent and Christmas. Some other highlights of Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's include:

- ❖ **Evening Prayer on Wednesdays** (December 6, 13, and 20) at **5:30 p.m.** in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ **Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10** at 5 p.m. in New St. Mary's.

Please note the following schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

- ❖ **Advent 4 Holy Eucharist Rite Two** service at **10 a.m. on Sunday, December 24** in New St. Mary's
- ❖ **Christmas Eve** services on **Sunday, December 24**, will include **Children's Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m.** in New St. Mary's, **Choral Prelude and Holy Eucharist Rite Two at 7 p.m.** in New St. Mary's, and **Holy Eucharist Rite One at 11 p.m.** in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ The **Christmas Day** service will be **Holy Eucharist Rite One at 10 a.m.** in Little St. Mary's.

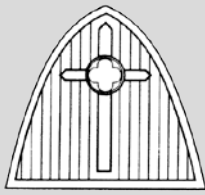
FELLOWSHIP

You don't have to be a master chef to **volunteer in the kitchen** for fellowship events! There are **opportunities for all skill levels** including chopping vegetables, making coffee, setting the tables, working alongside the chef, or creating simple flower arrangements. The Fellowship Committee is in **need of volunteers** for the upcoming **Parish Breakfast** on Sunday, December 10, the **Seniors Lunch** on Tuesday, December 12, and the **Parish Supper** on Wednesday, December 13. **Please email the group** at saintmarysfellowship@gmail.com if you can help or want to learn more.

A **delicious Parish Breakfast** for all ages is being served next **Sunday, December 10 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** in the New Parish Hall. Suggested donation of \$4/person, maximum of \$15/family.

Special Christmas edition of the Seniors Lunch next **Tuesday, December 12** in the New Parish Hall at **12 p.m.** Students from St. Mary's Episcopal School will lead us in carols. **All ages are welcome!** Suggested donation is \$5.

Parish Supper is on the **second Wednesday** this month! Take a moment to pause from the hustle and bustle of this season and sit down with the St. Mary's community. Join us next **Wednesday, December 13** starting at 5:30 p.m.



ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238

(804) 784-5678

www.stmarysgoochland.org

| Growing in Faith |

| Building Community |

| Giving Joyfully |

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

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Cassie Vestal, *Nursery Assistant*

Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

Vestry Members:

Al Rider, *Senior Warden*

Tracey Ragsdale, *Junior Warden*

Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*

Charmaine Trice, *Register*

Karen Huennekens, **Fay Lohr**, **Kim O'Shea**,

Doug Pera, **Betsy Rawles**, **Bruin Richardson**,

David Rose, **Tom Slater**, and **Russell Wyatt**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, December 3, The First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

Advent-Wreath Making, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cake and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

High School Youth Group, 12:30 p.m., *Dorey Park*

Middle School Youth Group, 4:30 p.m., *Education Building*

Monday, December 4

Pastoral Care Team 1, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Stewardship Committee, 4 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, December 5

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, December 6

St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m.,
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

Sort and Hang Lessons and Carols Costumes, 10 a.m.,
Sunday School Classrooms

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Children's Choir, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Book of Joy Book Study, 6 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Thursday, December 7

Soul of Christmas Book Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, December 2

A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Children's Lessons and Carols Volunteer Meeting, 12:15 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Lessons and Carols, 5 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Coming Up

Tuesday, December 12

Seniors Lunch, 12 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Wednesday, December 13

Fluff and Iron Lesson and Carols Costumes, 10 a.m.,
Sunday School Classrooms

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Parish Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Book of Joy Book Study, 6 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Music Rehearsal for Children's Lessons and Carols, 6:30 p.m., *Block Room*

Thursday, December 14

Outreach Committee, 8 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*